

**DAVID R. SEAR**

# *Certificate of Authenticity*

*issued by the Ancient Coin Certification Service (A.C.C.S.)*



*This coin has been personally inspected and authenticated by*

Issued to: Jens Feierabend

On: December 23, 2021

*David R. Sear*

State: Roman Empire

Ruler: Drusus Caesar (son of Tiberius)

Denomination: copper as

Mint: Rome

Date: struck under Tiberius, AD 22-23

Weight: 11.32 grams

Maximum Diameter: 29.80 millimeters

Die Axis: ↙

Obverse: DRVSVS CAESAR TI AVGV F DIVI AVGV N, bare head of Drusus left

Reverse: PONTIF TRIBVN POTEST ITER around large S C.

References: RIC (Tiberius) 45 ; BMCRE (Tiberius) 99; CBN (Tiberius) 78; MIR 2, Series 38/6; Cohen 2; Sear (*Roman Coins & Their Values I*) 1794 .

Grade: a most attractive VF

Historical & Numismatic Note: the two principal heirs to the imperial throne during the reign of Tiberius (AD 14-37) were his nephew Germanicus (born 15 BC), the elder son of Nero Claudius Drusus and Antonia, and Drusus the younger (born 13 BC), his own son by his first wife Vipsania. Germanicus was adopted by his uncle in AD 4 and became heir to the throne a decade later when Tiberius succeeded Augustus. However, the popular young prince was destined to enjoy his new rank for only five years. In AD 19, at the Syrian capital of Antioch-on-the-Orontes, Germanicus Caesar died suddenly under mysterious circumstances at the age of only thirty-four. As a result, Tiberius' own son Drusus now became heir to the throne, and sestertii and asses were struck in his honor during Tiberius' twenty-fourth tribunician year (AD 22-23), an unusually prolific period for the production of *aes* coinage at Rome. However, in AD 23 Drusus also died prematurely at the age of only thirty-six. It seems likely that he was the victim of the ruthlessly ambitious praetorian prefect Sejanus who had seduced his wife Livilla, sister of the late Caesar Germanicus, and had persuaded her to administer poison to her unfortunate husband. This example of the copper as (worth one-fourth of the orichalcum sestertius and one-sixteenth of the silver denarius) issued for Drusus Caesar has a fine portrait of the ill-fated 35-year-old prince. The obverse inscription describes him as "son of the Emperor Tiberius and grandson of the Divine Augustus", the same pedigree which had been borne by his predecessor as heir, Germanicus. The reverse inscription records that Drusus was in the second year of his tribunician power (TRIBVN POTEST ITER) showing that he had been granted this distinction by Tiberius as part of his preparation for the succession to the imperial throne. The large S C, which is encircled by the inscription, stands for *Senatus Consulto* ("by the authority of the Senate") and its prominence is indicative of the importance placed by the Senate on its constitutional prerogative to issue coinage. Under the Empire, this right was generally restricted to the *aes* denominations.

**DAVID R. SEAR / A.C.C.S.** (P. O. Box 7314, Porter Ranch, CA. 91327, U.S.A.)

**Phone** (818) 993-7363 **Mobile** (818) 312-4903 **E-mail** [david@davidrsear.com](mailto:david@davidrsear.com) **Web site** [www.davidrsear.com](http://www.davidrsear.com)

The information provided on this certificate has been researched in good faith by the signatory utilizing sixty-three years of professional experience in ancient numismatics. However, no guarantee is made regarding the accuracy of any of the opinions or data conveyed above and no liability of any kind is assumed. It should be borne in mind that the authentication and grading of ancient coins is subjective and opinions can, and do, vary among experts.

**Ref. 111CO/RI/CO/ON**